September

Welcome! We want to welcome everyone the 2006-2007 4-H Year. The Extension Office/4-H is busy preparing for all the new club meetings and activities. Some of our clubs have already gotten off to a great start. To our last year people we want you to know how much we appreciate you for all your hard work and dedication to the program. We had many members, leaders, parents, and friends pull together for a successful year. Let’s all have an even greater year! Keep setting goals and reaching for your dreams. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to call Cherie Hollingsworth, Extension Program Assistant-4-H and Jim Selph, County Extension Director at 993-4846. The office manager is Anna Beswick and receptionist Cindy Heflin.

Website Information
You are encouraged to make use of the websites provided by 4-H. Our County 4-H website is desoto.ifas.ufl.edu. Club lists, Newsletters and other important county information are located here. The Florida 4-H website is 4h.ifas.ufl.edu which has Information on the district and state events and also, leader and member information. You will find printable record books, member, leader and other guides at this site. For your convenience, the DeSoto County Fair website is desotocountyfair.org. They also have a link to DeSoto 4-H. The youth beef and swine rules are at this site.

Officer’s Training and Installation - All 4-H club officers are invited to the Officer’s Installation on Monday, October 2, 6:30 PM at the Turner Exhibit Hall. Club Officer Training will be held Thursday, September 28, 6:00 PM, DeSoto County Extension.

T-Shirts -- If you are interested in a county designed 4-H T-Shirt please call the 4-H Office. The shirts were delivered in May. They have a design that includes all the clubs on the back and the front has the DeSoto County 4-H logo. Thanks goes out to Susan Hatcher, Joyce Hunter, Cindy Heflin for all there assistance with the T-Shirts.

4-H Members- To continue to receive Newsletters you will have to be enrolled in 4-H
Club Meetings Dates and Times – Programs and Activities
Please check the lists of meeting dates, times and places. A parent should accompany the member to sign the necessary paperwork for the club. Not only do we have project related activities in your club but we also have a whole array of other programs through out the year to get involved with. You can also work for awards by taking part in our overall 4-H program. Some of the programs available in our county are County Council which is a leadership and citizenship experience, Holiday Planter program, Tropicana Speech program, and the DeSoto County Fair exhibit booth and concession stand. We have great Holiday parties and in the summer a 4-H Day Camp. The state 4-H office is sending us the new Florida 4-H Events and Activities Handbook that will serve as a guide for conducting club and county events. It is a help to assisting with the total 4-H program. We will have copies for each member in the next few weeks.

County Council
The first meeting of the 4-H County Council will be held Tuesday, September 5, at 6:00 PM at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office. All club delegates to County Council are asked to attend. The Council consists of: the Clubs’ Presidents, Vice-Presidents, and the two elected/appointed County Council Delegates. The meetings are also open to all 4-H members. If you want to take part in the decisions, help plan activities for your county and have fun and make new friends while doing so the County Council is for you. There will be election of officers at this meeting.

Club Officers Trainings and Officers Installation
In order to equip the club and county council officers with the proper tool for fulfilling their 4-H positions we will be holding an Officers Training, on Thursday, September 21, 2006, 6:00 PM at the DeSoto County Extension Service. Officers Installation will be held at the Turner Exhibit Hall on Monday, October 2, 2006 at 6:30 PM. All club officers are encouraged to attend this meeting. Officers may wear dress clothes to the Installation of Officers.

Leader/Volunteer Forum Meeting
The September Leaders Meeting will be Tuesday, September, 5, 2006 (Labor day on the Monday), 6:00 PM at the DeSoto County Extension Service Office. All volunteers and parents are also welcome to discuss and plan the activities for the 4-H county wide programs and activities. The next few months will be busy with the Open House on Wednesday, September 6, 4:30 PM until 6:00 PM at the Extension Service Office. In August the leaders meet with Mr. Selph who gave them info on the 4-H program and thanked them for all their ever lasting dedication to the program. Reports were given on the enrollments, club information and officers’ training and officers’ installation. The Leaders/Volunteer Meetings are held on the first Monday of the month unless a holiday falls on that day. The meetings are held at the Extension Service Office at 6:00 PM. Please join us for the September meeting on September 5, 2006 at 6:00 PM. Leaders are reminded to have a table top club display for the Open House.

Summer Assistant
A big thank you goes out to Debbie Neads. Debbie did a great job as our 4-H Summer Assistant. She was a huge help at all our summer activities including our awards trip and 4-H Summer camp.
4-H Member, Leader, Volunteer and Parent News

The 4-H Member should complete the required registration papers: 4-H Enrollment, Florida 4-H Participation Form. All small and large animal clubs will have a bona fide paper to be read and signed by member and parent. The Bona Fide forms must be returned to the 4-H Office before 5:00 PM on the following dates:

Bona Fide Forms:

Beef - September 11  Poultry - October 17
Swine - September 12  Goat - October 23
Rabbit - October 9  Horse - TBA

There are County Level Awards for the 4-H member to work on throughout the year. All forms explaining the awards have been available for the first meetings. After the first meeting the leaders will have copies available for the new members. The awards are Citizenship, Leadership and Achievement. Achievement forms are due Monday, October 30, 2006, 5:00 PM. Last year the state level adopted the Standard of Performance Awards to be used on our county level. You also may obtain a copy of this award series. Members may work on their project, club and county projects to fulfill the requirements on these awards. Of course, you may call the Extension Office with any questions at 993-4846.

Achievement Award Applications – There are many awards available to the 4-H member. Please contact the 4-H Office or your leader for the goals you need to reach to be eligible for these awards. For the achievement award you need to fill a form with your goals clearly stated for the year. These forms will be due in the Extension Office by Monday, October 30, 2006, 5:00 PM. When you are developing your goals for the year, they should be unique to you and your 4-H project and can include 4-H citizenship and leadership activities. The goal should also be appropriate for the age and level of education which you have. The goal form must be signed by you and your parent or guardian, and your club leader. The form is enclosed in this newsletter.

No forms will be accepted after October 30th.

New Florida 4-H age divisions to be implemented on September 1, 2006.

Florida 4-H will be implementing the new age divisions on September 1, 2006 to statewide events.

Eligibility for ENROLLED 4-H'ers (those who’ve met previously stated enrollment criteria) is determined by the student’s age as of September 1 of the current program year for which they are enrolled. Any exceptions are noted under Participation Criteria with the event. Generally, age classifications for most events and activities are the following:

Ages 5-7 - Clover bud Division
Children under 8 years of age are ineligible to participate in competitive activities at any level (Club, County, District, State, National or International). 5-7 year olds may exhibit or share project activities at a participation level (for feedback), against a predefined standard. Participation awards should be given to this group, but they should not be involved in Peer Competition.

Ages 8-10 - Junior Division
Any 4-Her 8-10 years old as of September 1 of the current 4-H program year is considered a junior. Only junior, intermediate and senior 4-H'ers can participate in large animal projects or activities which involve direct contact with the animal.

Ages 11-13 - Intermediate Division
Any 4-H’er 11-13 years old as of September 1 will be considered an intermediate.

Ages 14-18 - Senior Division
Any 4-Her 14-18 years old as of September 1 will be considered a senior. Senior level 4-H participation in Florida begins at age 14, but the 4-Her must not have passed their 19th birthday or graduated from high school.
SUMMER ACTIVITIES

4-H Day Camp
This year we had twenty-one members participate in the 4-H Day Camp. The topics that were covered were healthy living, ecosystems/plants, making goat soap, goat care and showing, horse care and equine, marine science/fishing, with a trip to Mote Marine on the Sarasota Bay.
The last day of camp was filled with Angler information. Jim Selph, County Extension Director and leader of the Anglers Fishing Club started the morning out with various activities; fish ID, casting, lure making and a late morning and afternoon fill with fishing at the pond. The week was finished up with a fun water games (balloon toss). We had a great time. Thanks to our counselors Travis Reynolds and Chris Crites. Christine Reynolds was our in house special helper for the week. The Ragans, Michelle, Cheryl and Philip showed us how to make the soap and Jen Lynch and Kathy DePalma presented us with lots of information on horses and even brought two horses for us to learn about and ride. Thanks to all our volunteers.

4-H Legislature
This summer Niki and Heather Emery and their grandmother along with other 4-H members from the state attended the 4-H Legislature in Tallahassee. Their grandmother Audrey Kyre accompanied them as the chaperone for DeSoto County. They report that they had a good time and learned a lot about our state’s government plus meet new friend from the district 4-H. Legislature is a state wide 4-H program and we would like to encourage all senior members to stay in touch for the 2007 Legislature information. If you are a senior 4-H member don’t miss this opportunity.

Awards Trip – The members of County Council chose Busch Gardens for the annual Awards Trip this year. A full day of fun was had by all the members in attendance. You can qualify for the awards trip by receiving a project medal or any of the other special awards.

CLUB NEWS & REPORTS

The Annual DeSoto County 4-H Prospect show will be December 16, 2006 at the Turner Ag Center. Call Mary Ellen or Gary Brown at 491-0087 or the DeSoto County Extension Service at 993-4846 or more information.

Niki Emery is raising the DeSoto County 4-H Mrs. Susie Brewer Scholarship Steer. We want to thank her and her family for taking on this endeavor. Her sister Heather raised and exhibited the scholarship steer last year. Heather did a great job for us and Niki has eagerly started the project. Bryan Farm Supply Inc. is donating the feed for the steer.

The 4-H Beef Club held their first meeting August 14, 2006 at the Turner Civic Center. We had a guest speaker talk about a new feed called “Show Master. Also, we elected our officers for the 2006 -2007 year. President: Gary Brown, Vice President: Niki Emery, Secretary: Olivia Shelfer, Treasurer: Alexis Stinson, and Reporter: Bailey Lyons. We would like to thank the Arcadia Livestock Market for the use of their facilities on August 17, 2006 for us to have our first weight-in.

Report by: Bailey Lyons, 4-H Beef Club Reporter

The Rooters Swine 4-H Club met on August 8, 2006. We held elections for the different offices. President - Kayla Patton, Secretary - Niki Emery, Secretary - Austin Patton, Treasurer- Emma DeLoach, Reporter Kellie Emery, Historian – Mason Skinner, County Council Delegates – Bailey Lyons, Krista Court and Shelby Ross. Some important dates you should remember are the Mandatory Meeting on September 12, at 7 PM which will be held at the Fairgrounds, Initial Weigh-In on October 1 from 7-10 AM. Our next 4-H meeting will be on September 5. Hope to see you there.

Report by: Kellie Emery 4-H Rooters Swine Club Reporter
Leaders Needed
The Soto County 4-H Program is seeking leaders for the Anglers Fishing Club and Home CLASS Club. Leader opportunities are not limited to these two clubs. If you have an interest that youth may enjoy learning about stop by the 4-H office and talk to Jim Selph or Cherie Hollingsworth about starting a new club.

Being a leader is great way to make a difference in a young person’s life.

James F. Selph
County Extension Director, IV

Cherie A. Hollingsworth
Extension Program Assistant, 4-H

August
24  Traildusters Horse Club Meeting, 6:00 PM, Extension Service Office
28  Just Kiddin Goat Club Meeting, 7:00 PM, Extension Service Office
29  Poultry Nationals Practice Meeting, 6, Extension Service Office

September
4   Labor Day (no school)
5   County Council/Leader/Volunteer Meeting, 6:00PM, Extension Service Office
    Rooters Swine Club Meeting, 7:00 PM Turner Exhibit Hall
6   Open House, 4:30 PM – 6:00 PM, Extension Service Office
11  Beef Bona Fide Forms due – 5:00 PM, Extension Service Office
    Rabbit Club Meeting – 6:00 PM, Extension Service Office
    Beef Club Meeting – 7:00 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall
12  Swine Bona Fide Forms due – 5:00 PM, Extension Service Office
    DeSoto County Fair Mandatory Swine Youth Meeting, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
18  Scrapbook Club Meeting, 5:00 PM, Extension Service Office
19  Poultry Club Meeting, 7:00 PM, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
25  Just Kiddin Goat Club Meeting, Extension Service Office
28  4-H Member Officer Training, 6:00 PM, Extension Service Office

October
1   DeSoto County Weigh-In Swine Youth, DeSoto County Fairgrounds
2   Officer’s Installation, 6:30 PM, Turner Exhibit Hall,